In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1 and 2 and amend claims 3 and 4 as follows.

1. (canceled)

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) ~~The image-reading device of claim 1~~ An image-reading device having a first end and a second end and comprising:

a platen glass for supporting an original document;

an end glass adjacent to the platen glass;

a sheet member that connects bottom surfaces of the platen glass and the end glass;

a feeder for feeding a document to the platen glass;

a carriage arranged for movement relative to the platen glass and the end glass from the first end of the image-reading device toward the second end of the image-reading device;

a rod lens array mounted on the carriage;

a photoelectric transfer device for reading an image of the original document formed by the rod lens array; and

a controller for driving the carriage at a first speed as it travels from said first end to said second end and for driving the carriage at a second speed that is slower than said first speed during a time the carriage is traveling near said second end;

wherein

the carriage includes a sliding member that is biased against the sheet member during a time the carriage is being driven by the controller at said second speed; and

said second speed is less than one-half the maximum speed of the carriage.

4. (currently amended) ~~The image-reading device of claim 2~~, An image-reading device having a

first end and a second end and comprising:

a platen glass for supporting an original document;

an end glass adjacent to the platen glass;

a sheet member that connects bottom surfaces of the platen glass and the end glass;

a feeder for feeding a document to the platen glass;

a carriage arranged for movement relative to the platen glass and the end glass from the first end of the image-reading device toward the second end of the image-reading device;

a rod lens array mounted on the carriage;

a photoelectric transfer device for reading an image of the original document formed by the rod lens array; and

a controller for driving the carriage at a first speed as it travels from said first end to said second end and for driving the carriage at a second speed that is slower than said first speed during a time the carriage is traveling near said second end;

wherein

the carriage is biased against the platen glass during a time the carriage is being driven by the controller at said first speed;

the carriage is biased against the end glass during a time the carriage is being driven by the controller at said second speed;

the carriage includes a sliding member that is biased against the sheet member during a time the carriage is being driven by the controller at said second speed; and

said second speed is less than one-half the maximum speed of the carriage.